

CHINA

THE

MAIL.

Established February, 1845.

With which is incorporated The "Hongkong Evening Mail and Shipping List." Published every Evening.

VOL XXXIII. No. 4300. 第三十月四年七十七百八千一英

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1877.

日十三月二年丑丁

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 8, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, George Street, 30, Cornhill, GORDON & GOTCH, Ludgate Circus, E.C.; BAINES, HERDY & CO., 2, Old Jewry, E.C.; SAMUEL DRAGON & CO., 160 & 164, Leadenhall Street.
NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 133, Nassau Street.
AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOTCH, Melbourne and Sydney.
SAN FRANCISCO AND American Ports generally.—BROWN & BLACK, San Francisco.
CHINA.—SOUTON, QUILLER & CAMPBELL, Amoy; WILSON, NICHOLS & CO., Foochow; HEDGE & CO., Shanghai; LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & WALSH, Manila; C. HEMMICK & CO., Macao; L. A. DA GRADA.

BANK.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, \$5,000,000 Dollars.
RESERVE FUND, 500,000 Dollars.

COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS.
Chairman—H. HOPPIUS, Esq.
Deputy Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.
E. R. BELLIOS, Esq.; WILHELM REINER,
W. H. FORBES, Esq., Esq.
Hon. W. KESWICK, Ed. TOWIN, Esq.
A. MOLVIB, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER
Hongkong... THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.
Shanghai... ERVAN CAMBRON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.
INTEREST ALLOWED
ON Current Deposits Accounts at the rate
of 1 per cent. per annum on the daily
balance.

On Fixed Deposits.—
For 3 months, 2 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 per cent. " "
" 12 " 5 per cent. " "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.
Credits granted on approved Securities,
and every description of Banking and
Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on London, and the
chief Commercial places in Europe, India,
Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Offices of the Corporation,
No. 1, Queen's Road East.
Hongkong, March 29, 1877.

AUCTIONS.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

ELEGANT AND SUBSTANTIAL,
MOSTLY FRENCH AND ENGLISH
MADE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
ENGRAVINGS, OIL PAINTINGS,
GLASS-WARE, CROCKERY,
AND PLATED-WARE,
etc., etc., etc.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from ADAM SIEKIEWICZ, Esq., French Consul, to sell by Public Auction,

MONDAY,

the 23rd day of April, 1877, at 2 o'clock p.m., at his Residence, Robinson Road.

The whole of his Elegant and Substantial HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, etc., comprising—

Three French-made Pearwood Drawing-room Suites, Covered with Damascus and French Silk.

French-made Pearwood Marble-top Cheffoner, Table, and Card Table.

Blackwood Marble-top Carved Tables.

Old Italian Carved Framed Looking Glasses.

Gilt-framed Pier Glasses, Engravings, Drawings, Oil Paintings, Moderator Lamps, Statuettes.

Persian Carpets.

Turkish Table Covers.

Alexander Wood Writing Table, English-made Mahogany Table, and Desk Chair.

French-made Rosewood Inlaid Book-case, Work Table, and Set of Drawers, Louis XVI.

French-made Bedroom Suite, Covered with Damascan Silk, Louis XVI.

Tenkwood Extension Dining Table, Mahogany Sideboard, Arm Chairs, Teak Whatnots, Dinner, Dessert, and Breakfast Sets, Glass and Plated-ware, etc.

Iron Bedsteads and Spring Mattresses.

Alexander Wood Wardrobe, with Plate Glass Door; Doublewing Lady's Wardrobe.

English-made Bedroom Chairs, Dressing Table, Washstands.

WINE.

A LARGE SELECTION OF FLOWERING PLANTS.

Catalogues will be issued, and the whole to be on view on and after Saturday, the 21st Instant.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash before delivery in Mexican Dollars weighed at 7.17. All lots, with all faults and errors of description, at Purchaser's risk on the fall of the hammer.

J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, April 13, 1877.

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

HANDSOME ENGLISH & VENETIAN-MADE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, OIL PAINTINGS, GLASS-WARE, PLATED-WARE, etc., etc.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from F. PEIL, Esq., to sell by Public Auction, (previous to his departure for Shanghai), on

FRIDAY,

the 27th day of April, 1877, at 2 o'clock p.m., at his Residence, No. 1, Praya East.

The whole of his HANDSOME ENGLISH and VENETIAN-MADE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, etc., comprising—

English-made Suite of Furniture, Covered with Green Damask.

Venetian Inlaid Blackwood Table and Chairs, Blackwood Carved Side Tables, Carpet, Hearthrug, Rep Window Curtains, etc., etc.

Richly Carved Oak Sideboard, Richly Carved Oak-framed Pier Glass and Flower Stands, Dining Table, Buffet, Whatnots, and Dinner Trays.

Oil Paintings, Oil Cloth, and Clocks.

Dinner and Dessert Sets, Glass-ware, Plated-ware, etc., etc.

Library Oak Book-case and Desks, Inlaid Blackwood Lady's Desk, Tables, Chairs, Easy Chairs, and Chess Table.

Brass Bedsteads, English-made Mahogany Marble-top Dressing Table and Washstand, Wardrobe, with Plate Glass Door, Cheval Glass, etc.

Gasoliers, Gas Brackets, Stair Carpet, with Brass Stair Rods, Marble-top Tables, Bonze Statuettes, etc.

Office Furniture, comprising—Desks, Chairs, Paper Press, Copying Press, Fire-proof Safe, etc., etc.

One HOSE BOAT and One SKIFF.

After which, at the Godown,—

10 Tons ARTIFICIAL MANURE, 1 SAW MILL, by FORREST & BARR, Engineers, Glasgow.

Also, 1 TURNING LATHE and various MACHINERY.

And,

At the Yard of Messrs Ingalls & Co.—One 12-H.P. TWIN SCREW ENGINE.

Catalogues will be issued, and the whole to be on view on and after Thursday, the 26th Instant.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash before delivery in Mexican Dollars weighed at 7.17. All lots, with all faults and errors of description, at purchasers' risk on the fall of the hammer.

J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, April 11, 1877.

Intimations.

Intimations.

THE MEDICAL HALL,

37, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

ESTABLISHED 1853.

TH. KOFFER, Proprietor.

Hongkong, April 28, 1877.

For Sale.

FOR SALE,

THE IRON SCREW STEAMER

"ALBAY."

The above Steamer was Built in Glasgow in 1872 by Messrs DORRIS & CO., under special survey of Lloyds', and Her MACHINERY AND BOILER were made by Messrs JAMES HOWDEN & CO., under special inspection. She was constructed to carry a large Cargo on a light draft of water and is well adapted for the Philippine, China, or Japan trade. She underwent general Repairs in 1875, when New SAILS, RIGGING, and a complete outfit were supplied by the HONGKONG AND WHAMPoa DOCK COMPANY, and in March of the present year her Engines and Boiler were thoroughly overhauled.

DIMENSIONS.—Length between Perpendiculars, 170 feet. Beam, 28 feet 3 inches. Depth of Hold from Ceiling to Main Deck, 9 feet 5 inches. Height from Main Deck to under side of Awning Deck, 7 feet 4 inches.

GROSS TONNAGE, 550 Tons.

CLASS.—Built to Class 100 A at Lloyds.

RIG.—Big Rigged.

CARGO CAPACITY.—About 9,000 piculs, or 625 tons Measurement (40 feet.)

DRAFT.—9 feet 9 inches. Loaded 12 feet.

SPEED.—Eight knots on consumption of 8 to 9 tons of coals per 24 hours.

BUNKER CAPACITY.—75 tons coal.

CABIN.—Under Awning Deck aft; saloon, pantry and five state rooms, with accommodation for 12 first-class passengers.

MACHINERY.

ENGINE.—A pair of Howden's patent High and Low pressure Engines of 90 Horse Power nominal; High Pressure Cylinder 26 inches and Low Pressure Cylinder 45 inches in diameter; Stroke 30 inches.

PROPELLER.—Bessemer Steel of 4 Blades, with One Spare Set of Blades.

WHEEL.—One Steam Winch with Donkey Boiler on Deck.

BOILER.—One Horizontal Tubular Boiler 11 feet diameter, with 3 Furnaces, tested for a working pressure of 60 pounds.

MORRIS & RAY.

Hongkong, March 29, 1877.

FOR SALE.

A MARINE ENGINE of 20 Horse Power Nominal, High and Low Pressure, with Extra SURFACE CONDENSER and TUBULAR BOILER. Consumption, 2 Tons per 24 Hours.

The Engine is quite new; was manufactured by Messrs Matthew Paul & Co., Dumbarton, and is now deposited in the Godown of the late firm of Russell & Sturgis, Manila.

Particulars may be obtained on application to

MORRIS & RAY.

Hongkong, March 29, 1877.

NOTICE.

DR. STOUT intends visiting JAPAN shortly, and would be glad if those who wish to consult him professionally would make an appointment for an Early Day.

HOURS FOR CONSULTATION:

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

No. 1, Alexandra Terrace.

Hongkong, April 4, 1877.

DENTAL NOTICE.

DR. STOUT intends visiting JAPAN shortly, and would be glad if those who wish to consult him professionally would make an appointment for an Early Day.

HOURS FOR CONSULTATION:

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

No. 1, Alexandra Terrace.

Hongkong, March 29, 1877.

NOTICE.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO. have been

Appointed SOLE AGENTS for

China and Japan, for

JOSEPH STARKEY, LONDON,

Manufacturer of GOLD and SILVER LACE,

Embroidery, &c., and Military and

Naval Appointments of every

Description.

A Stock of these Goods will be kept on hand, for the Regiments stationed here, as well as for the ENGLISH and AMERICAN NAVIES.

Hongkong, March 14, 1877.

NOTICE.

THE BUSINESS of this COMPANY has

This Day been Transferred to THE

MARINE INSURANCE CO., of 20, Old

BROAD STREET, LONDON.

By Order of the Proprietors,

WILLIAM HUNT,

Secretary.

137, Leadenhall Street,

LONDON,

1st January, 1877.

THE MARINE INSURANCE CO.

20, Old Broad Street,

LONDON,

1st January, 1877.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

CAPITAL, \$1,000,000 STERLING.

RESERVE FUND, \$2,800,000.</p

Notices to Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNNEES.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s S. S. LOMBARDY.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo by the above-named Vessel, from Bombay and Intermediate Ports, and in connection with the *PESHAWUR* and *MIRZAPORE* from London, and *AUSTRALIA* from Calcutta, are hereby notified that their Goods are being landed and stored at their risk in the Company's Godowns, at West Point, whence delivery can be obtained from this date.

Goods not delivered by the 16th Instant will be subject to rent.

ADAM LIND,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, April 9, 1877. ap16

FROM LONDON AND SINGAPORE.

THE S. S. *Glenearn*, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk by the Undersigned into their Godowns, whence and/or from the Wharf or Boat delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded to Shanghai unless notice to the contrary is given before 3 p.m. To-day.

Goods remaining undelivered after the 19th Instant will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, April 12, 1877. ap19

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

S. S. IRAOUADDY.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo per S. S. *Conqueror*, from London, in connection with the above Steamer, are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and stored at their risk at the Company's Godowns, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on, unless intimation is received from the Consignees, before 11 o'clock To-day, requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned.

Goods remaining unclaimed after Tuesday, the 10th Inst., at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

H. DU POURY,

Agent.

Hongkong, April 6, 1877.

To Let.

TO LET.

No. 3, PECHILI TERRACE, ELGIN STREET, with Immediate Possession.

Apply to LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, February 7, 1877.

TO LET.

HOUSE No. 7, Caine Road, lately occupied by Mr. PARKER. House No. 10, Albany Road, at present occupied by the Rev. R. H. KIDDE. Business Villa, Pok-fok-lum, Furnished.

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.

Hongkong, February 18, 1877.

TO LET.

THE Upper Portion of Nos. 42 and 44, Queen's Road.

The Dwelling House and Office No. 1, D'Aguilar Street, at present in the occupation of Messrs DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., Possession from the 1st May next.

Apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.

Hongkong, November 17, 1876.

Now Ready.

THE CHINA REVIEW, No. 4, VOL. V.

Annual Subscription, Six Dollars and a Half.

CONTENTS.

Essays on the Chinese Language, (Continued from page 152.)

Deer-Stalking in China.

Chinese Dentistry.

Chinese Intercourse with the Countries of Central and Western Asia during the Fifteenth Century, Part II (Continued from page 152.)

A Legend of the Peking Bell-Tower.

A Chinese Hornbook.

The Law of Inheritance.

A Chinese Dictionary in the Cantonese Dialect.

Short Notices of New Books and Literary Intelligence.

Notes and Queries.

A Chinese Dictionary in the Cantonese Dialect.

"Watching Spirits."

Chinese Folk-lore.

Zin and Yang, according to Aristotle.

Pidgin English.

Gothic's "Werther" in China.

Chinese Music.

White Ants.

Books Wanted, Exchange, &c.

Office, Hongkong, March 25, 1877.

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR SHANGHAI.

The Steamship

"NINGPO,"

R. CASE, Master, will be despatched for the above Port To-morrow, the 1st Inst., at 3 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SIEMMSEN & Co.

Hongkong, April 13, 1877. ap14

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR COOKTOWN, BRISBANE,

SYDNEY & MELBOURNE.

The Eastern and Australian

Mail Steam Co.'s Steamer

"SOMERSET"

will be despatched as above,

from SINGAPORE, on or about the 30th

Instant.

For Freight, apply to the Undersigned,

who are prepared to grant through Bills

of Lading.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, April 13, 1877.

FOR SHANGHAI.

The German Steamship

"FERONIA,"

Captain H. SCHULZ, shortly

expected from HAMBURG and

SINGAPORE, will receive immediate despatch

as above.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

Wm. PUSTAUS & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, April 13, 1877.

CASTLE LINE OF STEAMERS.

"FLEURS CASTLE,"

FROM LONDON AND SINGAPORE.

THIS Steamer having arrived, Consignees of

Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods

are being landed at their risk, into the Godowns of Mr. A. McG. FRATON,

whence delivery may be obtained.

Consignees wishing to receive their

Goods on the Wharf are at liberty to do so.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on,

unless notice to the contrary be given before Noon To-day.

No Claims will be admitted after the

Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods

remaining after the 20th Instant will be

closed as subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, April 13, 1877. ap20

Not Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor

Owners will be Responsible for any

Debt contracted by the Officers or Crew

of the following Vessels, during their stay

in Hongkong Harbour:

MYSTIC BELLE, American ship, Captain

David PLUMER.—Siemssen & Co.

ROXINA, American 3-m. schooner, Capt.

C. W. HANSEN.—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.

ECHO, British barque, Capt. George W.

TOZER.—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.

WINDERMERE, British ship, Capt. Mann.

Meyer & Co.

IRIS, Dutch schooner, Captain J. Werter.

veld.—Order.

ROSETTA McNEIL, American barque,

Captains Brown.—Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.

ARGONAUT, British ship, Captain John

ANDERSON.—Meyer & Co.

NYASSA, British ship, Captain W. S.

GARRICK.—Douglas Lapraik & Co.

CORINTHE, British Barque, Captain Wm.

ROBERTSON.—Wiesler & Co.

Letters may also be forwarded to INDIA

by this Packet.

The following will be the hours of closing

the Mails, &c.:

Wednesday, 13th inst.—

5 p.m.—Money Order Office closes. Post

Office closes except the NIGHT BOX,

which remains open all night.

Thursday, 14th inst.—

7 a.m.—Post Office opens for sale of

Stamps, Registry of Letters, and

Posting of all correspondence.

10 a.m.—Registry of Letters ceases.

11 a.m.—Post Office closes except for Late

Letters.

11.10 a.m.—Letters (but Letters only)

except those to and through Australia

may be posted on payment

of a Late Fee of 12 cents extra

postage, until

11.30 a.m., when the Post Office CLOSES

entirely.

Hongkong, April 5, 1877. ap19

DEPARTURES.

April 13, BREMEN, for Haiphong.

13, CARL, for Whampoa.

CLEARED.

Alden BESS, for Portland (Oregon).

Ulysses, for Shanghai.

Perito, for Saigon.

Norma, for Swatow.

Hailong, for Amoy, &c.

Bells of Oregon, for San Francisco.

1 European and 423 Chinese.

ARRIVED.

Per Hailong, from Amoy, &c., Capt. R.

H. Napier, Mr. C. J. Holland, and 18 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per BREMEN, for Haiphong, 19 Chinese.

TO DEPART.

Per Norma, for Swatow, 200 Chinese.

Per Hailong, for Amoy, &c., 200 Chinese.

Per Bells of Oregon, for San Francisco, 1 European and 423 Chinese.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The American barque *Albert Russell* reports:

Light weather and calm.

The British ste

Soofoo.

The following is an abridged translation of a letter from the Soofoo correspondent of the *Diario de Manila*:

Soofoo, March 8, 1877.

Lat. on the afternoon of the 4th the gun-boat *Mindoro* arrived from the island of Tawi-tawi, bringing the following news.

It appears that a few days after the departure of the gun-boats *Mindoro* and *Areaya* from this port to Tawi-tawi, with the object of terminating the hydrographic works there, and while exploring a narrow canal which extends from N. to S. of that island, the *Areaya* ran aground several times, and consequently a few sheets of copper were scraped off her bottom, but although she was making a little water it was not so much as to prevent her work of exploration being resumed, and the sounding of the canal was the only work which remained to be done. The gun-boats commenced from the Northern point, going slowly forward; in some places only finding a few metres of water. They proceeded as far as a place where there was a very small island, when a strange sound, followed by a shock, was felt on board the *Mindoro*, which convinced her crew that she had also struck the ground, and in fact, she had struck a rock which made a large hole in her bottom, the engine being also injured, as several tubes of the boiler burst through which the steam escaped, whistling furiously as it came out. They awaited for the rising of the tide to float her, but as the time arrived, it was found impracticable; they then arranged to float her by other means, and with this end in view the crews of the two gun-boats were sent to the woods which surrounded them to cut timber, and in one day they managed to bring several large trunks of trees. The *Areaya* was to tow the blocks of wood, and while doing so, and in the struggle with the strong current in the canal, broke her rudder, thus becoming completely disabled, and useless. Then they proposed that the three Moros of Ubian, whom they had on board as pilots, should be sent with a letter to the Naval Station at Soofoo asking for assistance. The Moros, although with some apprehension of their enemies, accepted the perilous mission. A boat was then roughly constructed for the three Moros, who were to proceed first to Ubian, from whence they could get a better vessel to continue the voyage. They at last departed, but the Moros of Ballimbing soon commenced to chase them with a number of boats. When about to be caught by the enemies they ran on shore, abandoned the boat and took refuge in the woods; thanks to their strong legs and their previous knowledge of the place, they succeeded in placing themselves in safety from the barbarous hands of their enemies. Shortly after that, they saw passing by the gunboats *Calamianes* and *Manitoco*, which left here on the 1st March in search of the two exploring ships. The three Moros made signals, and fortunately the attention of those on board being called, a boat was sent to convey them on board. The latter was then handed over to the people on board, and after some explanations were given with regard to the disaster and their final adventure, they embarked in the *Calamianes*, serving as guides to find the two disabled gunboats, which seemed to be lying hidden in the mountains that surrounded them. The arrival of the assisting gunboats caused them much satisfaction, as they considered themselves lost for many days in the middle of an uncivilized district. While the work was being resumed, the *Manitoco* returned to Soofoo with the news, and the *Calamianes* remained by to afford assistance. On the night of the 4th, the schooner *Venture* together with the gunboat *Paragua* were despatched with artificers and necessary materials for mending the tubes of the engine, repairing the hulls of the *Mindoro*, and replacing a new rudder on the *Areaya*.

China.

HANGCHOW.

A correspondent sends us an account of the trial of a Chinese criminal, which can hardly be surpassed by the most ridiculous tales narrated of African savages. It occurred, we believe, some time ago; but has not the least interest, as illustrating some of the views and practices of the rulers of the people.—A Secretary attached to one of the yamen in the city was mysteriously murdered in a lonely place on one of the city hills. Every effort was made to discover the murderer, but not the least clue as to the motive or the agent of the deed could be obtained. The officials then concluding that the case was too hard for those whose authority was confined to the visible world, had recourse to those who took cognizance of the affairs of the invisible world; that is to say, the gods of the city.

The trial occurred in one of the temples on the city hill, and the bench of judges consisted of the criminal judge of the province, who sat in the centre, the most honorable seat; on his right hand, the seat of honor, sat the god which ranks with the governor of a provincial city; on his left, the governor of the city. These three sat on the platform. In front of them, the two district magistrates, with the two corresponding district gods, sat at a table. In each case the officer in the invisible world occupied the seat of honor on the right hand. A number of official runners were in attendance. The trial took place at night, as it is said the officers of the invisible world would not serve in the day time. The manner of conducting the trial was truly characteristic. Several strawmen were prepared and brought before their honors, to represent the criminal, and these were examined with torture. The litigants were commanded to beat the straw criminals to make them confess. But as they were incapable of making articulate sounds, the officials depended upon the drawing of the lot for an expression of their opinion and feeling in the matter. So, after a good beating, the lot was drawn according to the common method in the temple, but without giving any satisfactory result, and the affair is now cited as a case in which neither the officers of the visible or the invisible world were able to secure justice, and hence the uselessness of appealing to them.—*N. C. D.*

TAICHOA.

24th March, 1877.

About the latter part of the last Chinese year there was a man living among the hills, about thirty miles to the eastward of the city. In his youth he had distinguished himself as an expert thief and swindler, and as a necessary consequence had good reason to remember sundry visits to his pen-

obliged to pay to some of the yamen in the prefecture. Having reached the period of middle life and being out of luck he had retraced his steps towards his native village; but being refused a lodging there, he turned his steps toward the house of some cousins who lived about three miles off, and took up his residence with them. He seems however to have expected that his kinsmen in his native village should contribute to his support, and sundry articles belonging to different families having disappeared in a mysterious manner, suspicion fell on the returned traveller. On search being made certain of the missing articles were found in his possession, whereupon he was seized and brought to the village, and a grand council was convened to discuss the best mode of dealing with their erring brother. Various means were suggested; among others, it is whispered that some one recommended a cold bath in the stream which runs close by, as a good means of cleansing off the stain he had brought upon the family name by his lawless conduct. He was eventually brought before the elders and having been duly admonished, his name was struck off the clan register, and he was sent away from the village under an escort of two men. A short time after his body was found in a deep pool in the neighbouring stream, and it was reported that being unable to bear up under the disgrace of being banished from his ancestral home, he had committed suicide. A coffin was procured, and he was decently buried with the sincere hope on the part of the mourners, that his body might rest in peace. About two weeks after, tidings of his death and burial reached the ears of the cousins with whom he had been lodging before he was captured, and they thought it would be a good opportunity to make a little money, by bringing the matter before the district magistrate of Taichow, and charging several members of the clan with being accessory to his death by drowning in the stream. Having got a form of accusation written out in which they were careful to include the names of six or eight of the wealthiest men in the village, they first went to the parties named, and told them that unless they allowed them a liberal compensation for the loss of their cousin, they would lay the matter before the district magistrate. The elders of the clan and accused parties were indignant. What right had they, being so distantly related, to claim any compensation on his account? Was he not a member of their own family, with whom they could deal as they pleased? And after he had committed suicide, had they not buried him in a decent manner? No, they would not give them one cent. The accusers then started for the city, and were followed by several elders of the clan, who were anxious if possible to prevent the matter coming before the authorities. Several days were spent in haggling over the matter; finally, forty dollars was offered to the accusing party to let the matter rest, and they had expressed their willingness to accept it. Some of the rummers connected with the Che-hien's yamen, however, having got风 of the affair, thought it would be a good opportunity to make a little money, so they whispered to the accusers that forty dollars was too little. Demand one hundred, said they; and if they refuse, send in your accusation, and we will make matters all right for you. The demand for one hundred dollars being refused the accusation was sent in; meantime, another party from the yamen came and told the accused what had been done, but after a good deal of bargaining undertook to get a verdict in their favour in consideration of a present of two hundred dollars. The case was soon called for a hearing, and the plaintiffs were separately examined regarding the affair. One said that the man had been drowned, another said that he had been beaten to death, another said that every bone of his body had been broken; indeed their statements were all different, and the only proof they could adduce was that they heard people say so. The Che-hien thereupon sent them off to prison for bringing a false charge against respectable people, and dismissed the defendants; who testified their gratitude by adding one hundred dollars to the two they had already given, to be divided among the underlings at the yamen. That the thief was quietly disposed of by his kinmen there does not seem much reason to doubt, and I am informed that it is not an uncommon thing for the members of a clan, when all give consent, to take the law in their own hands in cases like the above, and that the authorities take notice of the matter. The people say that to have sent the thief up to the yamen for punishment would have cost much more than the value of what he stole, and that after a beating and a month'sanguine he would have been set at liberty, to resume his depredations; and in the event of his again falling into the hands of the authorities he would have had his revenge by accusing the parties who had procured his punishment on the previous occasion as the instigators of the theft and the receivers of the goods he had stolen, so that it was far better to put him quietly out of the way, to prevent him doing them further harm.—*Shanghai Courier*.

THE RUSSIANS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

The territory now possessed by the Russians in Central Asia amounts to 400,000 square miles, an area as large as Germany, the Austrian Empire and Belgium together. But the population of this vast territory does not exceed 3,000,000, or less than that of Switzerland. The whole amount of exports and imports amounts barely to three millions and a half sterling a year. Such a country can never repay Russia what its acquisition has already cost, still less for the rapidly increasing cost of its administration. Had Russia known, fifteen years ago, as much about the countries of Central Asia as she now does, Mr Schuyler says there can hardly be a doubt that she would have made no movement in that direction, but it seems now to be her inevitable destiny to advance until Kashgar, Bokhara and the Turkoman country are either annexed or reduced to a condition of real and not merely nominal vassalage. Tashkend, the Russian seat of government, is the centre from which will probably radiate the future civilisation of Central Asia. This city, with its 140,000 inhabitants, including the Russian garrison and civilians, is situated on the upper Oxus, and was taken in 1865, after a very obstinate resistance. It lies in the hands of Russia, the most important lines of communication, as well as the whole commerce of Khotan and Bokhara, and it will probably ultimately become the emporium of Central Asia. There are already congregated many merchants and commercial agents from Europe and India. The width of the streets, the boulevards with their avenues, the white houses, many of stone, give to the Russian quarter quite a European aspect. The gait, in the midst of which

the city has been built, is a forest of fruit trees, intersected with numerous streams which supply the city with an abundance of good water. Its general appearance is described as resembling an immense tea-garden, and as houses in summer are only required to sleep in, the people at that season lead an open air life, and dreamily smoke their long narghilehs and sip their sherbet, soothed by the sound of rippling water and the gentle rustling of leaves. Gardens spring up with magical rapidity, and peach-trees are said to bear fruit the third year from the seed being placed in the ground. Water is introduced in every enclosure, and cool groves of elms, poplars and acacias are redolent of the perfume of roses, saffron and syringas. The Russian officers have established a club, and Tashkend can now boast of its casinos, balls and soirees musicale, like a European town with many fashionable pretensions.—*New Quarterly Magazine*.

A FIENDISH PLOT SURVERTED.

Information has been received of a terrible plot and counterplot between the rival companies of Chinese now incarcerated at San Quentin. It appears that the Chinese prisoners were anxious to celebrate their "New Year" holiday in a manner within prison limitation, which would not be a reproach to their country. With this object in view a dinner embracing luxuries seldom attained in the prison was decided upon. The Chinese Companies in this city contributed rice, and the Warden donated a large hog. To the coolie convicts who are employed in the prison laundry was delegated the task of cooking the rice and pork, and from this grew all the trouble. The laundry prisoners belong almost exclusively to the Hop Wo Company, while the remainder vow allegiance to the Ning Yung and See Yip Companies. On Sunday the Hop Wo coolies commenced their task, but an alert See Yip discovered that instead of cooking the dainties intrusted to their culinary supervision, the Hop Wo's were surreptitiously appropriating a quantity of it. The officer of the yard, Captain McAllister, was informed of the theft of the viands, and under threats of punishment compelled the return of the edibles. Incensed at the expense of their plaus, the cooking gang, in an incredibly short space of time, pounded fine nearly two quarts of glass, and, unobserved, mixed it with the rice which was cooking in a mammoth kettle. One of the conspirators, however, told the officers of the prison what was going on, and the rice seasoned with pulverised glass was not served up. Foiled in this, the band of original malefactors quietly armed themselves, intending to attack the Ning Yung and See Yip crowd when they were locked up for the night. In this, however, they were prevented by the timely intervention of the officers, and thirty-one Celestials upon whom were found hatchets and other weapons were locked up in punishment cells.—*American Paper*.

THE MANUFACTURE OF WEDDING-RINGS IN BIRMINGHAM.

(Birmingham Daily Mail.)

The manufacturers who actually confine themselves to the making of wedding-rings are comparatively few in number. It is an easy-going and a pleasant trade, and so fine are the profits that all transactions are strictly for cash only. Birmingham makers supply mostly the wants of the United Kingdom and the British Colonies, and many European nations make their own matrimonial yokes. There are, in all, twenty-four different makes of rings, and three qualities of gold. The Scotch and Irish people like usually a cheap quality while, in Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the North of England heavy costly rings are wanted. Wedding-rings are of two orders—the "round" and the broad sort—in which the band of gold is flat and displayed. There is thus a little fashion even in these simple matters, and in different parts of England broad or round rings are in vogue. Popular taste is in favour of broad rings as the most showy, but round rings for very "swell" people. The quality of the wedding-ring must be of irreproachable "carat," and it may happen that a few sovereigns find their way into the melting pot.

At the manufactory I inspected, I learnt that a bar of gold of the value of £200 lasted some five or six days, and was estimated to make from 90 to 100 dozens of rings. On the average some 60 to 70 dozens of rings are sent away from here every week. Think of this awful fact, dear ladies, that every ring represents one marriage! Truly a wholesale making of fetters that bind more closely than the prison chains. As much confidence must be placed in the workmen, old and trusty servants are employed and for them work is always found, if the demand be great or small. Christmas is a tremendous time for weddings, and then the makers work "double tides" for some three weeks previously, sometimes toiling nearly all night. Easter and Whit-sundays are also favoured periods for the commission of matrimony, but Christmas is best loved of all. Toleration even though the trade is slack seasons affect it; then, of course, prudent men do not rush headlong into matrimony. The prices of rings range from a few shillings to several pounds. There are terribly vulgar brides who will have most massive and costly rings, fearful to behold; and occasionally opulent male snobs take a fancy to have a plain gold ring of appalling proportions, as an instance, doubtless, of parvenu success and wealth. The fashionable ring is a neat thing of three to four penny-weight. Apart from the trade order, there are many curious private customers who come to the manufactory for the one single good circlet that is to mark one of this life's great contracts. Often the working girl—soon to be a bride—buys her own ring herself, and no matter how poor or ragged she may be, the ring shall be of undoubted quality. A slight return of drink, or "luck money" on the purchase is held to be productive of good, and many superstitions prevail among the poorer customers. One bride elect came back tearfully with her purchase to have it exchanged. The ring was assured, having been tried on by some thoughtless girl as the bride had worn it. The owner was held to be indicative of the worst luck. Many, indeed, are the strange fads and fancies connected with this magic circle. Often a girl who has scraped up little savings to buy an elaborate ring, will change it out of sheer jealousy for a heavier one, if some companion bride-elect has made a more massive purchase.

Shall we enter the magic laboratory wherein pledges matrimonial are contrived? Truly an alchemist's study. A small dingy workshop, fitted with a few benches for some half dozen workpeople,

and the ordinary rotary polishing wheels, blow-pipes, reflecting glass bottles, and so on. Here on the floor is the melting furnace; through a small aperture the gold bar or bag of a sovereign is dropped into the melting pot. The gold, having been duly melted, is taken to the mill to be rolled. It is then annealed. By this time the precious metal is as black as sheet iron, and the raw material of wedding-rings, as it lies in the workshop, resembles nothing so much as sections of nail-rod iron, or pieces of flattened telegraph wire. Gold, indeed; but if we know it! This nail-rod gold has to be drawn through a machine something after the wire-drawing principle. An end of a blank gold rod is made fast in the machine, which is then started, and away goes the bar through the machine, and comes out twisting tightly on the drum of the machine like a rope round a windlass. It is drawn round or flat as may be required and appears after the highly attenuating process its own natural colour, the impurities of the annealing having been rubbed off. The links that are to lead to—let me hope—much "linked sweetness," having been thus "long drawn out" themselves, are cut into short strips of the length of wedding-rings of all sizes, and sent to receive the official stamp, by which internal catalytic design unbelievers know that the articles are "hall marked," and so above suspicion. The embryo rings now present a rough appearance, and are of a dull yellow tint. The remaining processes are very simple. The little sections are hammered roughly round, and the ends joined, then beaten into the complete circle, and so, rough, coarse, and dull, are handed over to the gifted being who is to produce the last magical change, and transform the dull, brass-looking circle into the trim, neat, shining symbol of wedlock, all ready for the nervous digit of the tremulous bride. The ring is fixed in the revolving wheel; away goes the said wheel at a good speed, the polishing instruments—of hard stone—are applied, and, hey presto! soon the wheel stops, and out comes the ring as bright and clean as a new pin. In this almost primitive workshop, the earth with their apostolic message, would probably refuse them a hearing for holding no substantial investment in the Three per cent. Mrs Girling is quite of My Sullivan's opinion.

M. A. M. Sullivan, M.P., is improving in his style of oratory, which never lacked vehemence, but has gained in apt and genial illustration since he has become a resident of Clapham. The other day the hon. gentleman had the happy thought to call the population among whom he now lives "a sun-moon-loving population, who, if the barefooted fishermen of Galilee could revisit the earth with their apostolic message, would probably refuse them a hearing for holding no substantial investment in the Three per cent." Mrs Girling is quite

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There is some hope for Spain yet. Bar-nun has been outside there, Delmonico's messenger was at Tolosa last week, when a lady made a bet of 5000 pesetas to nothing that she would enter the lions' den. An immense crowd gathered at the Casino to witness the spectacle. The lady appeared, entered the cage undaunted, flourishing a small whip, put her head into the mouth of an aged and toothless monarch of the forest, and finally seated herself on his loins in the midst of a family group. Frantic applause saluted the daring act; and Delmonico himself confessed that he had never seen its like, and that his lion-queen, the Signorina Ginaida, was nowhere. Is it necessary to add that the lady was one of the troupe?

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There has been a mild sort of revolution at the Junior Atheneum Club. It seems that a certain Japanese, by name M.A. Hachisaka, and calling himself "Prince of Awa," was put up for membership. If the "heathen Chines" himself had been proposed with three packs of cards stacked up his sleeves, there could not have been greater consternation. It was clear that a Japanese invasion was threatened; "Prince" Hachisaka would at once introduce Japanese manners and customs, and as many of his countrymen as he could collect, into the club. A grand remonstrance was drawn up, and signed by about forty members. For days there was no peace at the club, owing to this confounded Japanese. Last week he was elected, and great was the indignation among the anti-Japs. But if I were asked why a Japanese gentleman should not be likely to prove as inchoate a member of a club as a blathering stock-broker, I declare that I could conjure up no good reason.

The Prostrate Oberlaak.—"Sir, I am informed from the surface that some one has proposed to dislodge me and place me in a coffin, and surround me with an iron cage, and then carry me out to sea, where I am to sink the ship that is to tow me by crashing into her stern; the same operation burrowing open my coffin, and depositing me at the bottom of the ocean. Now, sir, I protest against this, as I am desirous of exhibiting my magnificent proportions and my interesting hieroglyphics on the Thames Embankment. I have been informed by an Arab donkey-boy, who overheard a conversation between the skippers of two colliers, that I could be provided with a passage and a comfortable berth 'tween decks, or cradled in cotton, on board of a Dutch galliot, for half the sum which I hear has been proposed, in your impression of the 7th instant, for the coffin arrangement. Please raise your powerful voice against my being transferred from my comfortable earthly grave to a watery one."

THE PROSTRATE OBERLAAK.
Place Cleopatra, Alexandria.

The signboards are instructive. One of them represents the establishment as a "dry-goods store," the name for haberdashery; another bears the whitework legend, "notions," representing small-wares of various kinds. Our maid has ceased to be a "servant" and we, who are king and queen of our domestic castle, are no more "master" and "missus." The free air of the country in which all are "citizens" and no "subject" has raised the servant to be a "help," and her employer to be "governor" or "boss," or, if slang is to be avoided, "Mr A." or "Mrs A." A "biscuit" is a soft bun, and a hard English biscuit is called a "cracker." Notes representing a number of dollars are called "bills"; small notes of ten or twenty-five or fifty cents are "greenbacks," or "change." "Potatoes" are either "sweet potatoes" or "Irish potatoe" (also termed "white potatoe"). "Lumber" signifies timber, or saved boards. "Deal" is unknown as a specification of a kind of wood, but the wood itself is abundant, and is called "white pine." "Vine" is used generically for any climbing plant, and the common phraseology runs of "grape-vine," "ivy-vine," and again of "poison-vine." English terms of natural history are misapplied in a country where the species vary from those of Great Britain. The American "robin" is a large, red-breasted thrush; the "hawk" is a kind of plum-tree; "dairy" is not the sweet, crimson-tipped flower of home. "Clever" does not indicate mental ability (which is expressed by "able" or "smart"), but means generosity of spirit. The accent and tone of words is sometimes peculiar. Man'ma and pap's, with accent on the first syllable, are universal, and we give testimony with long o, not testimony as in En. &c. The peculiarities of expression may be traced to various sources. The American Indians have left their mark extensively in geographical names, and also in a few words which persist in the language of the country: as "hominy," for food prepared from Indian corn. Some of their words, as canoe, calumet, wigwam, tomahawk, and pemmican, are becoming classical English terms. "Mains" originated in the West Indies; "nob," expressing its head deprived of the neck, and "chuk" for its hocks, are probably Indian words, as is the widely-known "tobacco." "Guano" is Peruvian for "dung." "Corn" is employed in the United States for Indian corn, "Porridge," made of oatmeal, is called "mush" or "oatmeal mush" or simply "oatmeal" (and is taken up by sup by sup, along with coffee or breakfast, as in cheese with applesauce or other sweets). "Supper" means the English "tea," saving that tea is rarely used at it, coffee being the national beverage. "Cobkey" (a Christmas cake), "dough-nuts" (balls of sweetened dough, fried), "bush" (land covered with rank shrubbery), and "boss" (employer or overseer), are of Dutch parentage. "Prairie" is French; quite a large number are Spanish, as mulatto, quadroon, creole, filibuster, avanab, stamped, German, negroes, and Chinese, have also made their mark in the popular vocabulary.

Some of the Americans favour of slang; that is to say, a language of slang; that is to say, to run a concern or to run a church, is to manage its finances; and if the affair comes to grief, as the English say, "Brother Jonathan" remarks that it "had gone up a spout" if it is only in difficulties, then he says "it is gone up a tree" (like an opossum when hunted). The "hub," or nose of a cart-wheel, means the centre of refinement, and having been applied to Boston by one of its own citizens, the name stuck. Skedaddle is a Scotch (

INSURANCES.

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AGENCIES at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon and Penang.

Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above mentioned Ports.

NO CHARGE FOR POLICY FEES.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,
Secretary,
Hongkong, November 1, 1871.

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CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

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Hongkong, July 6, 1871.

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF

His Majesty King George The First,

A.D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:

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Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 on reasonable terms.

HOLIDAY, WISE & CO.,

Hongkong, July 26, 1871.

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THE Undersigned Agents are in receipt of instructions from the Board of Directors authorizing them to issue Policies to the extent of £10,000 on any one first class risk, or to the extent of £15,000 on adjoining risks at current rates.

A Discount of 20% allowed.

HOLIDAY, WISE & CO.,

Hongkong, January 6, 1871.

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THE Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Tschow, Shanghai and Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at current rates.

HOLIDAY, WISE & CO.,

Hongkong, October 16, 1871.

Mails.

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PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

THROUGH to NEW YORK, via OVERLAND RAILWAYS, and TOUCHING AT YOKOHAMA, and SAN FRANCISCO.

THE U. S. Mail Steamer CITY OF TOKIO, will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 13th April, 1877, at 3 P.M., taking Passengers, and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Through Passenger Tickets and Bills of Lading are issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, and to New York and Europe via OVERLAND RAILWAYS.

A Steamer of the MIAMI BLDG. S. S. Company will leave Shanghai, via the Inland Sea Ports, about same date, and make close connection at Yokohama.

At New York, Passengers have selection of various lines of Steamers to England, France and Germany.

Freight will be received on board until 4 p.m., 13th April. Parcel Packages will be received at the office until 5 p.m. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; value of same required.

Consular Invoices to accompany Overland Cargo should be sent to the Company's Offices in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For security's sake, Shippers of Overland Cargo are requested to endorse on the Envelope the Marks and Nos. of Packages Shipped, to correspond with those in their Bills of Lading.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 16, Praya Central.

RUSSELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, March 21, 1877.

apla

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANCAIS.

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Hongkong, April 11, 1877.

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THE S. S. "GAELIC" will be despatched for San Francisco via Yokohama, on TUESDAY, the 1st May, at 3 p.m., taking Cargo and Passengers for Japan, the United States and Europe.

Connection is made at Yokohama, with Steamers from Shanghai.

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Return Passage Tickets available for 6 months are issued at a reduction of 20 per cent on regular rates.

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G. B. EMORY, Agent.

Hongkong, April 8, 1877.

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Near the Canton Steamer's Wharf.
Hongkong, July 13, 1876.

NOTICE.

THE CHINESE MAIL.

F ROM and after the Chinese New Year's day (February 17, 1874) the Chinese Mail will be issued DAILY instead of TWICE-WEEKLY as heretofore. No change, however, will be made in the price of subscription, which will remain at \$4 per annum.

The charge for advertisements is now assimilated to those of the China Mail.

The unusual success which has attended the Chinese Mail makes it an admirable medium for advertisers.

The Conductors guarantee an eventual circulation of one thousand copies. It is already the most influential native journal published, and enjoys considerable prestige at the Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Penang, Calcutta, San Francisco, and Australia.

For terms, &c., address

Ma CHUN AYIN,
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17th February, 1874.

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